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AN
AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE
OF THE
TREATMENT OF THE ENGLISH,
WHO WERE TAKEN PRISONERS
ON THE
REDUCTION OF BEDNORE,
BY TIPPOO SAIB;

From the 28th of APRIL, 1783, the Day of Capitulation,
to their Enlargement on the 25th of APRIL, 1784, after
near Twelve Months Confinement under a continued Series
of unrelenting Acts of Cruelty.

ALSO,
An Account of those who perished during the above Period.

BY CAPTAIN HENRY OAKES,
ADJUTANT GENERAL to the ARMY under the Com-
mand of GENERAL MATHEWS, on that Expedition,
a Fellow-sufferer and Spectator of the horrid Scenes
which he describes.

TO WHICH IS ADDED AN APPENDIX,
Relative to the Conduct of the BRITISH FORCES, upon their first
becoming Masters of that Place.

By LIEUTENANT JOHN CHARLES SHEEN,
Of the First Battalion of SEPOYS, who was upon the same Service.

L O N D O N:

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MDCCLXXXV.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS Narrative is published from a Manuscript written by Captain Oakes ; the Printer has, by Mistake, throughout the Account, in mentioning TIPPoo SAIB's Office, called him NAWAUB, instead of NABOB ; the Reader is requested to correct this Error as often as it occurs.

This

This Account states the Hardships and Cruelties our People suffered, but leaves us in the Dark as to the Cause.

There were two Motives for adding LIEUTENANT SHEEN's Letter, which is given as an APPENDIX: first, his Account commences at an earlier Period, and consequently includes a Number of interesting Circumstances unnoticed by Captain Oakes. The other Inducement is common Justice, as it illucidates the Cause of TIPPOO SAIB's Cruelty to our People.

His

His Conduct was evidently founded upon Principles of Retaliation; and Candor must acknowledge that the Conduct of the Company's Army goes a considerable Way in Justification of that of the Enemy.

London, March 30th,
1785.

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AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE, &c.

THE siege of Bednore having lasted seventeen days, a cessation of arms took place on the twenty-fourth of April, 1783; and on the twenty-sixth of the same month, Brigadier General Richard Mathews, Commander in Chief of the forces on the Western side of India, called a council of war, who (after deliberating on the situation of affairs,) came to a resolution of capitulating on the following terms, viz.

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“That

“That the garrison should march out of the fort with the honors of war, and pile their arms on the glacis: That all public stores should remain in the fort: That all prisoners, taken since the siege began, should be delivered up: That after being joined by the garrisons of Cowladroog and Annantpore, (who were included in these articles,) the whole should have full liberty to march, unmolested, with all their private property, to Sadaashagur, from thence to embark for Bombay: That Tippoo Sultaun Nawaub Bahauder should furnish a guard to march with the English troops, for their protection through the country; which guard should be under the orders of Brigadier General Mathews: That Tippoo Sultaun Nawaub Bahauder should likewise furnish the English troops with a plentiful buzzaur, and proper conveyances for the sick and wounded, during their march to Sadaashagur: That a guard of one hundred sepoyes from the garrison of Bednore, with their arms and accoutrements, and thirty-six rounds of ammunition, should attend Brigadier General Mathews, as a body-guard, during

ring the march to Sadashagur : And that Tippoo Sultuan Nawaub Behauder, for the performance of the articles on his part, should deliver two hostages prior to the garrison's marching out of the fort."

The capitulation having been signed, the hostages received, and doolies sent for the sick and wounded, the garrison marched out of the fort, with the honours of war, on the twenty-eighth of April, 1783, and after piling their arms on the glacis, were immediately escorted, by a strong body of the enemy, to a tank about half a mile beyond the Onoregate, where the General was informed he must encamp that night, to which he reluctantly consented, it being his intention to have marched two miles farther.

When the whole came up, the enemy surrounded us and posted sentries on every side, beyond whom no person was permitted to pass.

The General calling for his body-guard, was informed that the enemy had forcibly

taken away their arms and ammunition, immediately on their leaving the fort, and had also deprived many of the officers of their side-arms.

Lieutenant M^cKenzie, of the 100th regiment, (who had a few days before been shot through the body) was forced out of his dooly by the enemy, with their bayonets, as he was coming out of the fort, and several others were treated in the like cruel manner.

Captain Facey of the Bombay establishment, with fifty sick and wounded, were detained in the fort till the next morning, with Mr. Shields, assistant-surgeon; by whom we were informed, that an Englishman in the Nawaub's service came up to him, and told him he was extremely sorry to find him in such a situation; that he need entertain no hopes of getting away, for the Nawaub had been forging irons for the garrison, ever since his arrival before the place; and that he himself had been taken and used in the same manner, in the Carnatic, after the garrison had capitulated.

Early

Early in the morning, while the troops were preparing to march, the General received a message from the Nawaub, desiring to see him, together with Captains Eames and Lendrum of the Bombay establishment, and Mr. Charles Stewart, the paymaster: he accordingly went, accompanied by those gentlemen, and took several of the officers servants along with him, in hopes of recovering those articles of which they had been plundered: the hostages, of their own accord, likewise accompanied the General.

Soon after their departure, a good buz-zaur, furnished with a great variety of provisions and other articles, arrived in camp; at the same time people came to carry away the doolies, out of which they threw the sick and wounded in a most inhuman manner, seizing those who had lately suffered amputation, by the stumps, and left them in that painful wretched condition upon the bare ground, entirely exposed to the heat of the sun; being asked the cause of such barbarous treatment, the brutes only replied, " They had

had received orders to make the doolies two feet longer."

The troops had waited with the greatest impatience for the General's return, till five o'clock in the evening, when intelligence was received, that the General and the gentlemen who accompanied him, were (immediately on their arrival at the Durbar, without being admitted into the Nawaub's presence) made close prisoners,

At ten o'clock at night we were alarmed by the arrival of an additional force of the enemy, when the guards turned out and posted double sentries all round us ; their design was easily seen through, though they endeavoured to lull our suspicions with the pretext, that those guards which had been first placed over us, were a part of Mahomed Ally's troops, who were going to be relieved in order to be sent to Mangalore.

The next morning we perceived the enemy had spies in every part of our camp, and emissaries

emissaries employed to entice the troops to enter into their service.

About ten o'clock a message was received from the Nawaub, desiring to know what number of tents we wanted, at the same time informing us we were to remain there some days: the tents we refused, but a letter, signed by all the officers, was written to the Nawaub, requiring him immediately to fulfil the terms of capitulation, which letter was sent to him by Major Fewtrill of the Bombay establishment (who was ordered into Bednore, with Captain Alston, commanding officer of His Majesty's troops, and Lieutenant Young, Major of Brigade to the Bombay troops,) but no answer was received.

Early in the morning of the first of May, a report prevailed that the troops were to be plundered of their property, which we soon found to be too true, for at ten o'clock the buzzaur was taken away, the guards ordered under arms, and all the European officers immediately sent for to the spot of ground from whence

whence the buzzaur had been taken, where we were, one by one, plundered by the enemy, in the most scandalous manner, of our horses, ptelanqueens, money, plate, watches, valuables, &c. and in short of every article except our bedding and cloaths, searching us most minutely in every part, without the least regard to decency: the European soldiers, black officers, and sepoys, with their wives and children, as also all the camp-followers, were searched and plundered in the same indecent, infamous manner, and at four o'clock in the afternoon were marched under a strong guard to Bednore, the sick and wounded being left to perish on the ground: shortly after, the European officers, with their servants, were likewise conducted to Bednore, where we were closely confined in the barracks which had been formerly occupied by a battalion of our own sepoys; and from the time the villains began to search and plunder us, we had nothing of any kind to eat till twelve o'clock the next day, at which hour they brought and delivered to each person, one pice and a seer of the coarsest rice, which they informed us was to be the daily allowance

ance of officers and servants, indiscriminately.

On the fifth of the same month all our servants, except one to each officer, were taken away.

On the sixth the subaltern officers belonging to Annantpore were brought prisoners to the barracks, who informed us of their having seen the officers of Cowladroog, and the garrisons of that place and Annantpore, in irons; and also, that all the fine young lads of the third and fifteenth battalions of sepoy, were, by orders of the Nawaub, forcibly taken away, in order to be made slaves of, and put into his Cheelah battalions.

On the seventh arrived Lieutenant Miuson of the 100th regiment, and Lieutenant McKenzie and Barnewell of the Bombay establishment, the two former gentlemen taken at Cundapore; the latter at the commencement of the siege with Captain Gotlich of the Bombay establishment—these gentlemen informed us they had been in irons for some days.

This day we wrote a letter, signed by all the officers present, to Lieutenant Colonel De Cossigné, commanding officer of the French troops, representing to him, in a spirited manner, the Nawaub's base violation of the conditions on which Bednore surrendered; as also his shameful, cruel conduct towards the troops in general; requesting, in the name of His Britannic Majesty, and the East India company, that he would use his most strenuous endeavours with the Nawaub, to persuade him to adhere to the terms of capitulation; or, if he failed of success in that point, that he would, at least, obtain a mitigation of such unprecedented usage: we contrived to send this letter by a French officer who had been taken prisoner by us during the siege, and had come to the barracks with a surgeon of that nation, to return the civilities he had received from some of our officers, during his confinement; we flattered ourselves with great hopes of redress from this letter, particularly as the French officer assured us that Lieutenant Colonel De Cossigné was very well inclined to exert himself in our cause, and gave us his word of honour that he would
immediately

immediately wait on the Colonel, and deliver him our letter; but, to our utter astonishment and mortification, we never received an answer from Lieutenant Colonel De Cossigné; nor did any other of the French officers come near us during our stay in the barracks, or offer us the smallest relief in our distressed situation. The chagrin we felt on this occasion, helped not a little to increase the indisposition of many of the officers, who were daily falling sick of fevers and fluxes, which we could only attribute to our wretched food, and the putrid stench arising from the necessary; the French surgeons would afford us no assistance; our own surgeons had it not in their power, having been plundered of their instruments and medicines, at the time of the general search.

The same day Doctor Carmichael of the Bombay establishment was sent for, by the Nawaub, to visit Brigadier General Mathews, whom he found much indisposed, and by whom he was informed, that the Nawaub was endeavouring to intimidate him into a surrender of all the forts in the low country,

by threatening to blow him away from a gun, in case of his non-compliance.

In the evening, the Nawaub was so generous as to send us a present of thirty-five small fowls and a few salt-fish, to be divided among upwards of eighty officers.

On the eighth in the morning, the Captains belonging to the garrison of Cowladroog and Annantpore, together with Captain Gotlich, (who, as before mentioned, was taken prisoner at the commencement of the siege) were brought under a guard to the barrack^s, and were shortly after removed, with the rest of the Captains, Ensign Gifford, Surgeon's mate of the 100th regiment, Lieutenants Barnewell and Olivier of the Bombay establishment, and Mr. Chick deputy commissary, to a separate place of confinement.

On the ninth we were ordered to prepare to march, and were informed we should not be allowed coolies to carry our baggage; we therefore packed up as much linen as we could well carry ourselves, and giving our bedding

bedding to our servants, we all went into the street, except Captain Pyne and Ensign Jenour of the 102d regiment, with Captain Facey, Lieutenants Williamson, Baird, and Lea of the Bombay establishment, who were in too desperate a situation, from their wounds, to be removed, where we were first stripped of our coats, and then chained two and two, by the hands, three of the officers being linked to private soldiers; after which, we were a second time searched and plundered: we were then secured in another house till about three o'clock in the afternoon, when we were led through crowds of people, in this ignominious manner, (more like criminals going to the place of execution, than British officers made prisoners, contrary to the rules of war,) to the enemy's camp, a short distance beyond the Delly-gate, where we heard we were to be confined in a strong fort, called Chettledroog.

The enemy, at the time we were leaving the barracks, gave us an instance of the treatment we might in future expect to receive, in their behaviour to Lieutenant Alexander Mac. Donald of the Bombay establishment, who
was

was so extremely ill that he could scarcely stand ; he therefore requested permission to remain behind with the wounded officers, which they obstinately refused, beating him and dragging him out by the heels ; but, to the honor of the French, we were informed their treatment of Lieutenant Lambert of the Bombay establishment, whom they had taken, dangerously wounded, at the commencement of the siege, was full of tenderness and humanity.

On the tenth in the morning, as we were moving off the ground, each officer received three pice for that day's subsistence : we march'd about fifteen miles, and found the apprehensions of yesterday, fully justified by this day's usage on the road : several of the officers who were ill, and much fatigued by the intense heat of the sun and the want of water, attempting to rest themselves under a tree, were beat, in a most unmerciful manner, by the enemy, with swords and sticks, while others were driven on with the butts of their firelocks, spit upon, and abused in the grossest manner : whenever we approached a town or village, four or five men were advanced in front,

front, with horns and tom-toms, that the inhabitants might (by their discordant music) be assembled together, to gaze at us as we passed through. We proceeded on, in this miserable condition, each day bringing a renewal of our sufferings, till our arrival at Simoga, (a fort on the banks of a river, sixty miles eastward of Bednore,) our allowance having been increased to one fanam each, per day, and coolies furnished to carry our bedding and cloaths, whenever the commanding officer of the escort thought proper to procure them. As we were to halt here one day, we fondly expected some little indulgences, especially for those gentlemen who were ill; but our inhuman enemy, as if delighted with every fresh opportunity of augmenting our afflictions, when entreated to afford some assistance to Lieutenant Fireworker West, of the Bombay establishment, and Serjeant Dobbins of the 102d. Regiment, who had been struck with the sun, owing to our long and severe marches, absolutely refused it, saying, "they were only drunk," and seemed to exult in their misery, although the one was quite speechless and the other raving mad; nor were they satisfied with
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this, but even extended their brutish insults to the lifeless body of Lieutenant Waugh of the Bombay establishment, whose death was evidently hastened by the injuries he had received upon the road. On the fourteenth we had the misfortune to lose Lieutenant Clements of the Bombay establishment, who, on his departure from Bednore, was in perfect good health, but on the last day's march received a severe stroke of the sun, of which he died, chained to Ensign Gilkie of the same establishment, who remained in that situation several hours.

In the evening, Lieutenant Sutton of the Bombay establishment was seized with the cramp and spasms in his stomach, and by his violent contortions gave great pain to Lieutenant Reddie of the same establishment, who was hand-cuffed to him, and in great danger of having his arm broke, and who, for unriveting the irons, though he had permission from one of the escort so to do, was immediately taken to a tree and threatened to be hanged, for which purpose ropes were prepared, and the Jemmahdaur informed us he had received orders

orders from the Nawaub to hang every one who should even attempt to free himself from his fetters ; but, on a submissive representation of the business, Lieutenant Reddie was so far indulged, as to escape only with a few lashes : we again made application for assistance to Lieutenant Sutton, to which we received the following sanguinary reply, mingled with a large share of Eastern abuse ; “ let him die, and when he is dead we’ll drag him out of the camp by his heels ;” however, by the merciful hand of Providence he recovered in a few hours,

About ten o’Clock at night came on a most violent thunder-storm which lasted some hours, and having no kind of shelter from the rain, we all suffered exceedingly, particularly the sick, whose disorders were much increased by it : some of the gentlemen who were troubled with severe fluxes and agues, being much affected by the rain and raw cold wind, went to some fires, made by the guard after the storm had ceased, in order to warm themselves, but were soon given to understand that it was too great an indulgence for British Officers to enjoy,

joy, being instantly drove away by the enemy, with the butts of their firelocks.

We left this place on the morning of the fifteenth, and after a short march, arrived at Holly Honoor, (a fort situated on the east-bank of a rapid river) and, for the first time since we began our march, were brought under cover.

As Ensign Cadogan of the Bombay establishment, who was extremely ill, was coming into the fort, and endeavouring to shift his posture in the quilt in which he was carried, received a blow on the head from one of the coolies, and died a short time afterwards; he was, in like manner with the former deceased officers, striped of every article, and, in that naked state, thrown into a hole by the side of the river, without suffering us to pay our last duty to the corpse. As we approached the destined place of confinement, our escort began to relax a little in their severity, supplying bullocks to some of the sick to ride on, (for the use of which we gave part of the few cloaths we had with us,) by slow
marches

we arrived on the twenty-first of May, 1783, at Chettledroog, a strong and almost impenetrable fortress, irregularly built on the end of a ridge of hills, rising in a flat country, 128 miles eastward of Bednore. Here we were led in triumph to a street leading to the Durbar, where we were detained, surrounded by crowds of people, till four o'clock in the afternoon, at which hour all the servants, (except one to every five officers) were taken away; they then separated us into two parties, and marched us up, through ten very strong gateways, to the top of one of the highest hills, and there closely confined us in two separate houses; and after having a third time marched and plundered us, our hand-cuffs were knocked off, and irons put upon our legs. Late in the evening (having had nothing to eat the whole day,) they brought us some rice, with wood and water to dress it, and next morning we were ordered to deliver up all our knives and papers, but were permitted to keep a few books which some of the offi-

cers had brought with them: they then furnished us with an hand-mill for the purpose of grinding rice, which afterwards became our chief employment: about ten o'clock a Brahmin came up, and delivered to each person one teer of the coarsest rice and two pice, with wood sufficient to cook our victuals, which he told us was to be our daily allowance: our servants were allowed, each, only one pice a day: we were also furnished with a buzzaur, pretty well supplied with every article. except butchers meat. We were at this time confined entirely to the house, but informed that a necessary was building in the outer yard, to which, when finished, we should be permitted to go. On the twenty-ninth, the necessary being completed, two gentlemen at a time, were permitted to go into the outer yard, a small area surrounded by a high wall.

On the fourth of June, we sent our compliments to Dowlat Bhance, the Jem-mahdaur

mahdaur of the province, acquainting him it was our king's birth-day, and, on that account, requesting we might be allowed some meat; in consequence of this application, out of his great generosity, he ordered a small lean sheep to be sent up, for which we paid a most exorbitant price, and which was but of little service to us, who were now, forty in number.

On the eighth, the wood (which had hitherto been daily served out to us) was stopped, nor would the enemy supply us with more until we consented to pay for it, which additional expence deprived us of half our paltry daily allowance.

On application being made for medicines for the sick, we were informed, "that the strictest orders had been issued not to supply us with any, that we had not come there to live, and that the Nawaub would be very happy to hear we were all dead;" those gentlemen who were
ill,

ill, appeared from this circumstance, to despond exceedingly, seeing no prospect of recovery, except from the efforts of nature : thus unhappily situated, we used every means to procure some medicines, but all in vain ; for the sentries (to whom we applied) told us they would willingly bring us some, provided they could do it with safety, but that were they detected, they would forfeit their ears and noses.

On the thirteenth, three women who were confined with us, were decoyed out by a report of some fine salt-fish being in the buzzaur ; on their going out, the doors of our prison were immediately shut, and soon after we were alarmed with horrid shrieks, and the cries of murder, and could plainly hear the women call upon us for assistance ; but, as it was totally out of our power to afford them any, we could only deplore their situation in anxious suspense, not knowing what might be their fate ; however, an hour had not elapsed,

elapsed, before our apprehensions were agreeably relieved by their safe return, when they informed us they had been very roughly handled and narrowly searched, and that a few pagodas (which they had found means to conceal) had been taken from them.

On the fifteenth, we were deprived of the buzzaur, nothing being brought for sale but four milk, salt, chillies, tamarinds, and tobacco. About midnight, Serjeant Dobbins of the 102d regiment (who had been ill of a fever some days,) departed this life ; and when the doors of the prison were opened in the morning, we made the Wardee Wallah acquainted with the circumstance, and requested the corpse might be immediately taken away and decently interred, for we feared the putrid stench that arose from it, might occasion some infectious distemper ; but, instead of complying with our request, he told us we must dig a grave in the prison and
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bury him there ; we then represented to him the offensive inconvenience of such a measure, as likewise the impossibility of doing it, having no tools for the purpose ; to which he replied, “ dig it with your nails ;” however, after many humble entreaties we at last gained our point, and the funeral service having been read, the corpse was tied up in a mat, and carried out of the prison by our servants, after which, the enemy tied a rope about the neck and took it away.

On the twentieth, they deprived us of the four milk, so that we had then nothing to subsist on but rice alone, without any other vehicle than water to carry it down ; uncertain how this diet might agree with us, and several of the officers being sick, and destitute of medicines, our situation became wretched, and our prospects dreadful, from a belief that the worst was yet to come ; and their taking away a few onions, (which one of the gentlemen had reserved

reserved from the time of our being deprived of the buzzaur, just as they were going to be boiled, served to confirm our suspicions. Our necessary began at this time to be very offensive, for those who were ill were unable to go to the outside necessary, nor were any of us suffered to go to it, from sun-set to sun-rise, for during that time, the doors of our prison were fast locked. Our cook-room, as well as the necessary, was in the prison, on one side, we therefore laboured under another disagreeable inconvenience from being in a continual smoke the greatest part of the day, while immense swarms of rats, bugs, fleas, and other kinds of vermine constantly disturbed our nightly rest.

The daily insults we received from our cruel, tyrannical enemy, joined to the rest of our treatment, when compared with our former situations in life, at times, depressed our spirits and hurt our feelings so much, that words cannot do justice to

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our sufferings; but, on reflection, recollecting we were Britons, and how shameful it was to yield to gloomy despair, we resumed our usual gaiety of mind, determined by the help of Providence, to surmount every difficulty, in hopes of future revenge.

On the twenty-ninth died, Lieutenant William Paterfon of the 102d. regiment; when the enemy came in before his body was cold, and, vulture-like, seized upon the few remaining things belonging to him, threatening to punish with rigour those gentlemen who should attempt to conceal any part of them; after permitting us to read the funeral service, the corpse was removed.

We now became exceedingly anxious to learn the situation of affairs, and punctually listened every night to the conversation of the guard, from whom we hoped to gather some intelligence, and were not disappointed; for we were frequently gratified

tified with the most flattering and plausible accounts of our successes against the Nawaub, which accounts were sometimes confirmed, and at other times contradicted by the sentries with whom we had frequent opportunities of conversing during the day ; we questioned them concerning our Europeans and sepoys, who were confined in the fort, and they told us that the former were treated in the same manner as ourselves, but that the latter, with our servants, were only allowed one seer of rauggy (which is the worst grain in the country,) and one pice each per day ; that they were employed during the day, to work as coolies, carrying stones, mud, and chunam, for erecting, and repairing the enemy's works, and that in the evening, after they had finished their labour, they were confined in prison, with irons upon their legs, and their hands tied behind them ; they further informed us, that our sepoys had been frequently asked to enter into the enemy's service, and

threatened to be hanged, in case they refused to do so, being told at the same time, that all the European officers had taken service; but that our sepoy's disregarded their threats, and told them with a firm resolution, that not a man of them would enter, that they would sooner die working as coolies, and that they well knew none of the European officers had taken, or would take service : this pleasing news of the fortitude and fidelity of our brave sepoy's, who were labouring under such cruel hardships, gave us the utmost satisfaction, and considerably lightened the burden of our own sufferings.

On the third of July, Doctor Carmichael of the Bombay establishment, had his irons taken off, and was conducted below to visit Dowlat Bhau, the Jemmahdour, who was suddenly taken ill; the doctor returned in the evening, and informed us that after prescribing for him he gave him a most excellent dinner, and made him an offer

offer of remaining in a house, below, which he declined; Dowlat Bhauee also promised the Doctor, that he should not again be put in irons, which was invariably adhered to,

On the eleventh of this month, died Lieutenant Auchinleck of the Company's troops; he had been long ill of a flux, and tho' frequent applications were made to have his irons taken off, those worse than brutes would not consent to it; but, about an hour before his death, they brought up a blacksmith, and, though strongly solicited not to disturb him in his last moments, they positively insisted on knocking off his irons, which they effected with great pain to the poor dying man.

On the seventh of August, having been told by the sentries that a Mharatta army with a detachment of English troops was approaching Chettledroog, our spirits were much elated, as we could not avoid giving
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some credit to the report, from the circumstance of some of the principal men belonging to the government coming up, and enquiring whether any of us understood the nature of the mortars, or how to cut fuzes, of which we all disclaimed having any knowledge; they then called out five officers, to whom they offered considerable commands in the Nawaub's service, as also to the rest of us, provided we would enter; but their offers were of course rejected with disdain,

On the twenty-seventh, our daily allowance was augmented to three pice each, and we were informed that a cessation of arms had taken place between the East India company and Tippto Sultaun Nawaub Bahauder, that peace was actually on foot, and that the Burrah Mire would be sent by the Jemmahdaur to acquaint us with it; we waited impatiently for a confirmation of this joyful news, till five o'clock in the evening, when the
 Burrah

Burrah Mire made his appearance, and acquainted us, in a very formal manner, that peace was concluded between the aforesaid belligerent powers; that in the mean time we should have a buzzaur, and requested to know all our wants.

We were deluded into a firm belief of this intelligence for five days, but on the first of September were undeceived, by the buzzaur being taken away, and the additional pice struck off: upon making enquiry into the cause of this sudden change, we were told that the Burrah Mire would satisfy us on that head; but as he did not, at that time, pay us another visit, we concluded it was only a pretext calculated to serve some particular purpose.

On the fifth of October, our daily subsistence was again augmented to three pice, each, and the following day a buzzaur was sent to us, in which was ghee,
dholl,

dholl, sugar, wheat-flower, mufsaui, tobacco, limes, and vegetables.

On the twentieth, the Burrah Mire a second time made his appearance, and we were in great expectation of receiving agreeable intelligence; but his errand was only to enquire whether any of us understood the method of making musket-flints, paper, or black lead-pencils, offering great rewards to any person who would instruct him in those arts.

On the fifth of November we had the misfortune to lose Doctor Carmichael of the Bombay establishment, who had been ill for a considerable length of time, and whose death was much lamented by every gentleman in the prison.

Though we found the weather in general milder than on the sea-coast, and the monsoon not near so violent, yet our prison was not proof against the rain which
came

came through most parts of the roof, and occasioned a dampness that brought on a slow fever, of which a number of us were at this time ill.

On the fourth of December our servants, as they went to draw water, for the first time had an opportunity of speaking to those attending upon the gentlemen in the other prison, from whom we had the satisfaction to hear that they all enjoyed good health, and had only lost, during their confinement, Mr. Brown, Quartermaster of the 100th regiment, Ensign Bateman of the Bombay establishment, and a private soldier of the ninety-eighth regiment.

At different periods we experienced various kinds of treatment, sometimes meeting with less severity than at others: we had an instance of their lenity on Christmas-day, when the buzzaur-man was directed to bring for sale abundance of fruit,

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sweetmeats, and vegetables, together with some sheep, two of which were purchased by some of the gentlemen, who had saved money out of their daily allowance, for that purpose.

On the third of January, 1784, died, much regretted, Lieutenant Drew of the Bombay establishment, after a painful, lingering illness.

Having the curiosity to enquire how they disposed of the bodies of the deceased, we were assured by different people, that they were thrown over a precipice into an abyss, there to be devoured by the tygers and vultures.

On the tenth, butchers meat was allowed to be brought into the buzzaur, and sold in small quantities, in common with other articles.

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Our treatment was now much better than heretofore; we wanted for nothing that we could, with our small allowance, afford to purchase, and as many as chose were permitted to go to the outer yard, from sun-rise to sun-set. From this great alteration in the behaviour of the enemy, as also from their repeated assurances that peace was concluded, we were led to believe that the happy day would soon arrive, when we should be freed of our shackles, and once more enjoy the liberty of Britons,

On the tenth of February died Lieutenant Hugh Moore, of the 98th regiment, who, some days before his death, had been indulged with a room to himself, in a house in the outer yard, which, after his decease we were permitted to occupy during the day.

We were now positively assured that peace was concluded, and that all the pri-

soners would be released in a few days, which happy period we anxiously waited for; but, having been so often deceived, we much suspected the truth of this intelligence, notwithstanding the indulgent behaviour of the enemy; however, on the twenty-third of March, all our doubts were cleared up, for early in the morning the Wurdy-Wollah brought up several blacksmiths, and informed us that he had received orders from Dowlat Bhauee, to knock off all our irons, and to acquaint us that peace was concluded, and that we were to be released in a day or two.

The emotion we felt on receiving this joyful and most welcome news, joined to the pleasing sensation of having our legs at liberty, no pen can describe; for a while, nothing but rejoicings and congratulations were heard re-echoing from every part of the prison.

After

After we were freed from our fetters, we remained two days to get the proper use of our limbs; and on the twenty-fifth in the morning we bid adieu to our jail, and were conducted to an open space of ground, just without the prison, where we had not waited long, when we, at a distance, discovered our brother-officers, who had been separated from us on our arrival at Chettledroog, and such was our eagerness to meet, that the fixed bayonets of the guard could not prevent our running several yards to embrace each other: this was a period of bliss, of which the first monarch in the world might justly have envied us: we were so drowned in joy, that for a while we forgot we were still in the hands of the enemy, but were soon recovered from our trance, by receiving orders to proceed below, which we gladly obeyed, and about ten o'clock arrived at the Kutchery, where we had the inexpressible pleasure of meeting with Messrs. Gordon and Brunton (two Lieutenants of the Madras

Madrafs establishment, who had been taken prisoners some years before) and of seeing many other of our fellow sufferers, both Europeans and sepoy, but were not permitted to converse much with the latter,

Our servants, who had been taken from us on our arrival at Chettledroog, were delivered over to us, from whom gushed tears of joy at the sight of their masters. We had not been long there, when a very unpleasing sight was presented to our view, which was nothing less than several baskets of hand-cuffs, for the purpose of again linking us two and two; but on making a forcible representation to Dowlat Bhauee, and on signing a paper, wherein we gave our paroles of honour for our own good behaviour, and bound ourselves answerable for that of the troops, he relinquished his intention of making us suffer that horrid ignominious punishment: but we were not so successful in our strenuous application
in

in behalf of our brave, faithful soldiers, for they poor fellows, were obliged to endure that cruel penalty.

Having been told by our servants, that several of our slave-boys had been taken out of the prison, in which they were all confined together, and carried away on the twentieth of this month; we demanded them to be given up to us, but met with no other satisfaction than being told they were all dead. As most of the officers and men were nearly naked, and all of us in want of shoes, we made an application for a sum of money to be advanced us, on the honourable company's account; and were informed by Dowlat Bhauee, that a Buckshy would be sent with us, who would supply us with every thing we could wish for.

Having been detained in the Kutcherry till four o'clock in the afternoon, we all marched at that hour, to the burying ground,

ground, about one mile and an half distance from the fort. As soon as we halted, we all assembled together and related to each other our sufferings, and on comparing notes, found that the officers who had been separated from us, were used in every respect in the same manner as ourselves. Messrs. Gordon and Brunton had formerly been confined at Sarringapatam, where they were treated tolerably well, and for the first six months were not in irons : about twenty months before our arrival at Chettledroog, they were removed (with several European foldiers taken with Lieut. Colonel Bailie) to that fort where they were at first used remarkably well, having meat and liquor daily served out to them, exclusive of their allowance of rice and pice, and were besides supplied with a plentiful buzaur : the capture of Bednore caused some alteration in their treatment for the worse ; but nothing very material took place, till those gentlemen were detected in a correspondence with Lord Macartney, (Governor of Madras) and in endeavouring to send a letter

letter to us; in consequence of this discovery, they were confined by themselves in a very small dark room, the door of which was only suffered to remain open one hour during the day; irons were put on their hands as well as their legs; they were fed on the sweepings of the rauggy storehouse, being only allowed one seer, each, of that grain per day; were deprived of the buzzaur, and in every respect treated with the utmost rigour, for some months, till the cessation of arms took place; at which time their irons were taken off, the door of their prison kept open all day, and ever after used in the same manner as we were.

We learned from our servants, that what we heard from the guard in the

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beginning

beginning of July, regarding our European sepoys, was strictly true.

On the twenty-sixth, having received no allowance of rice or pice for the preceding day, we asked for some victuals, and some hours after, a seer of rice and one pice was delivered to each person ; we were amazed at, and did not know how to account for the reduction of our pittance ; for, as peace was concluded, we naturally imagined our allowance would rather have been augmented than curtailed ; but on making enquiry into the cause, were told that the commissioners from Madras, employed in negotiating the treaty, had stipulated no kind of provision for us, and that the Nawaub had sent orders to furnish us
with

with just as much as would keep us from starving, and no more.

In the evening, we received intelligence from a sepoy (who had formerly been in the English service) that Dowlat Bhauee had kept fifteen of our drummers and slave-boys, and confined them in a house close to where he lived; also, that the Jemmahdaur had detained ten European soldiers, and twenty-three sepoys, whom he separately confined in different parts of the fort, and had given out that they were dead.

This day and the twenty-seventh, several parties of our European soldiers and sepoys, from various parts of the country, joined us; and as soon as they could get an opportunity, many of them shewed their gratitude and generosity,

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by

by sending several of us a little money, which they had contrived to save when they were first taken.

As several officers obtained permission to visit their men, we learned that the Europeans had been better used than we were, except at one place, where, having only a few of raggy, and one pice to subsist on, they gave part of that allowance for pieces of dried sheep-skins, which, being their usual food, fluxed them so much, that out of two hundred and thirty, only one hundred and thirteen survived; and the enemy were so rigid as not even to allow them to wash their hands and faces, or comb their hair, for the space of four months.

Our sepoy were equally oppressed in every prison, all of them having been employed

employed as coolies, carrying mud, stones, and chunam, the whole time of their confinement, with no other allowance than one seer of rauggy, and one pice to each, and having been daily punished with stripes, and threatened to be hanged for refusing to enter into the Nawaub's service, this hard usage proved the death of numbers.

One circumstance, with which we were made acquainted by some of the European soldiers, so much redounds to the honour of the sepoy, that it cannot pass unnoticed :

In some of the prisons, where the Europeans and sepoy were confined together, the latter saved money out of their daily allowance, and purchased
meat

meat for the former, at the same time telling them, they well knew the customs of Europeans, and that they could not do without it: also, when on their march, they would not suffer the Europeans to carry their knapsacks; but the sepoy took them and carried them themselves, telling the Europeans, they were better able to bear the heat of the sun than they were, the climate being natural to them.

On the twenty-eighth, doolies having been provided for the sick, we commenced our march (guarded by an escort of sixty cavalry, and five hundred infantry, under the immediate command of Meer Bucksby) for Oscottah, a fort laying sixteen miles eastward of Bangalore, and sixty miles distant from the
pass

pass into the Carnatic, where, as Dowlat Bhauee informed us, all the prisoners were to be collected, and where we should meet some of our own gentlemen, sent from Madras, provided with money and every other article requisite for our reception.

The doolies were only four feet long, and in every respect so bad and inconvenient, that no person who could possibly crawl, would accept of one.

Prior to our quitting the burying-ground, we obtained a promise to march at what hour we chose; but that promise was not adhered to, for we seldom or ever decamped before sun-rise.

During

During the march, and after we halted, the guards were very particular in keeping the several parties separate ; but the Buckshy was so good as to allow many of the Europeans to take off their irons,

We had made but few marches before we found that rice alone had not sufficient nourishment in it to support us under the fatigue of constant marching in the heat of the sun ; we therefore made a proposal to the buzzaur-man to supply us with the mere necessaries of life out of his shop, at the rate of four pagodas for one, to be paid him on our arrival at Oscottah, to which, after much entreaty, he, seemingly, with reluctance, consented ; but he exacted such an extravagant price for every article,
that

that we did not receive more than the value of half a rupee for every four pagodas ; however, that was a matter of very little consideration, when put in competition with the preservation of our lives.

Nothing further material happened till our arrival at Seerahhungy, on the eighth of April, when the Bucksby informed us, he expected one of the Commissioners would overtake us that night, as he had heard he was very near ; and the next morning, before the rear had marched off the ground, Mr. Sadlier, (a Counsellor at Madras, and one of the Commissioners) and Ensign Fomblong of that establishment, overtook us ; the sight of those gentlemen made our hearts leap with joy, for nothing could be more

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agreeable to us, at that time, than meeting with some of our countrymen.

Those gentlemen who were in the rear, were very cordially received by Mr. Fomblong; but Mr. Sadlier's behaviour was not quite so pleasing; that gentleman, when requested by one of our officers to use his endeavours with the Bucksby to get all the men taken out of irons, replied, "The situation the troops were then in, was the best and securest method of marching them."

Another officer represented to Mr. Sadlier, the many distresses of the officers and men, and particularly mentioned their being bare-footed, as also the necessity we were reduced to, of purchasing the mere necessaries of life from
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the buzzaur-man; at such an exorbitant interest; in answer to which, Mr. Sadlier told him he could give us no assistance; and asked him how we intended to discharge the buzzaur-debt; then immediately turning to another officer, with the coolest indifference, asked him what corps he belonged to? The gentleman who addressed Mr. Sadlier was so astonished at those words, and his behaviour, that he could make him no reply, but took his leave in silent amazement.

This extraordinary behaviour of Mr. Sadlier, hurt our feelings more sensibly than any thing we had hitherto experienced: such treatment from the enemy might have been expected; but to receive it from one of our own country-

men, and from the first person too who was eye-witness of our distress, was cruel beyond measure.

Had this gentleman's humanity been as eminent as his want of it, our misfortunes might by his means, have been alleviated in some degree.

After a short stay, Mr. Sadlier and Ensign Fomblong proceeded on their way to Bangalore; the former gentleman leaving us a present of six bottles and an half of various sorts of liquors, which our situation would not allow us to refuse, as we concluded it might be of service to some of those gentlemen who were sick.

On

On the twelfth, having lost, by death, only two Europeans, we arrived at Ocottah, where we found Lieutenant Dallas of the Madras cavalry, with a detachment of that corps and two companies of sepoy, appointed by the commissioners to receive the prisoners : this gentleman's behaviour was widely different from Mr. Sadlier's; the contrast was a very pleasing one, for Mr. Dallas came to us in the evening, (accompanied by Lieutenant Mc.Allister and Cornet Lennard of the Madras cavalry) and with the most friendly good-nature told us all the news, and offered every assistance he was able to afford us.

On the thirteenth arrived another party of prisoners, whom the commissioners had collected on their march
from

from Mangulore, when a second happy meeting ensued ; and in the evening we all joined Lieutenant Dallas, and were delivered over in charge to Beem Row ; a Brahmin whom the Nawaub had appointed to conduct the prisoners from Oscottah to the Carnatic, it having been agreed by the treaty, that all the British prisoners should be delivered up at Vellore.

We now enjoyed a greater scope of liberty than we had ever done since we were captured, being allowed to range over the whole camp, and Beem Row was so good as to take all the troops out of irons, though he had orders from the Nawaub to the contrary : We also lived in perfect luxury, compared to our late mode of existing, for Mr. Dallas furnish-
ed

ed us tents, and daily supplied us with meat and liquors; but still he found it a difficult matter to please every individual, for some gentlemen were much discontented with his behaviour, though he certainly used all his exertions to give general satisfaction.

This day arrived from Bangalore, Mr. Sadlier and Colonel Brathwaite of the Madras establishment, which latter gentleman had obtained permission from the Nawaub, to proceed to Madras with Mr. Sadlier, before the other prisoners; they accordingly set out for the Carnatic the next morning, leaving a large quantity of the company's liquors, and two thousand pagodas, which sum was afterwards distributed, reserving a part for the rest of the prisoners, who were hourly expected:

ed : Each officer received two pagodas, each sailor one pagoda and an half, and each soldier one pagoda, the sepoys did not receive any till some days after, when they each shared one rupee and an half.

Each of the officers also received a hat, a pair of shoes, four pair of stockings, and a sufficient quantity of broad cloth for one coat, these articles having been sent up by the government of Madras.

On the fifteenth arrived the Madras prisoners from Saringapatam and Bangalore, who (having received frequent supplies of cash from Madras, and been better treated while in confinement, than the officers taken at Bednore) had
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it in their power to supply us with several articles we stood much in need of, which many of them gladly did in the most friendly manner, sharing their cloaths and money with us.

All the prisoners (in number, about one hundred and eighty officers, nine hundred European soldiers and sailors, and sixteen hundred sepoys, besides some hundreds of servants of different occupations) were now met together, and on recounting to each other our several misfortunes, the following intelligence was collected, viz.

“That at Bednore the officers left wounded there, were used much better than at any other place, having been allowed to keep all their cloaths, doolies,
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cotts, chairs, tables, knives, forks, &c. were besides indulged with the free use of pen, ink, and paper; a certain part of the rampart, including two towers, was also allotted for them to range about in; their servants were permitted to go into the buzzaur to purchase whatever they chose to send for, but their daily allowance was only one seer of rice, and one pice to each; when they recovered of their wounds (having been allowed a French surgeon to attend them) they were not put in irons.

That Ensign Manly, of the Bombay establishment, who had been taken in a sally at Mangulore, was sent to Bednore, and there confined in the same prison with some sepoys, upon no other allowance

ance than a feer of rauggy, and one pice per day.

That the officers who were sent to Darwaur, (a fort near Goa) were confined with the private men, upon the same allowance as we were, but were afterwards removed to Simoga, where they were kept on a feer of rauggy and one pice, and their irons were fixed in such a manner, with a straight bar between their legs, that they could neither contract or expand them.

That the officers confined at Saringapatam, were allowed, each, a golden fanam per day, with which they were at liberty to purchase whatever they wanted.

That those gentlemen who was confined at Bangalore, were daily allowed the same as ourselves, but clandestinely received frequent supplies of cash from Madras, with which they were permitted to purchase every article they wanted, and latterly were allowed to visit each other in their different prisons.

That the private Europeans also received different treatment in the various parts of the country where they were imprisoned, some meeting with tolerable usage, while others were treated worse than brutes.

That the sepoys, as before mentioned, were equally ill used in every prison.

That

That the Nawaub had circumcised Lieutenants Rutledge, Speediman, and Clarke of the Madras establishment, with 200 English soldiers and sailors, against their inclination, and had by force, detained them all in his service; and had likewise forcibly detained five midshipmen of his Majesty's navy; every man, white or black, who was known to be an artificer; most of the drummers and fifers, and several women and children.

That the Nawaub, actuated by a most cruel, inhuman disposition, had poisoned the following English officers, viz. Brigadier General Mathews, at Saringapatam: Major Rumley, Captain Frazer, and Lieutenant Sampson, of the Madras establishment, at Mysore: Major Few-

trill

Fewtrill ; Captains Eames, Lendrum, Jackson, Mc.Culloch, Richardson, Gotlich, and Clift ; Lieutenants Barnewell, Young and Olivier ; Messrs. Stewart and Chick, all of the Bombay establishment, at Coppuldroog : Captain Campbell of the 98th regiment, with Captains Alston and Fish, and Ensign Gifford of the 100th regiment, also poisoned at Coppuldroog.

That this horrid murderer had likewise assassinated Lieutenant Mathews of the Bengal establishment, (brother to General Mathews) and Lieutenant Wheldon of the Bombay establishment, at Bednore ; and had moreover, sent directions to murder all the English officers whom he had taken ; but hearing that the Commissioners for negotiating the

the treaty of peace, had set out from Madras, he countermanded those bloody orders.

That four days before the officers were released from Bednore, all the Commandants, Soobahdaurs, and Jemmahdams, of the Bombay establishment, whom the Nawaub had taken prisoners, were, by his orders, removed from thence, and have never since been heard of; therefore, as he repeatedly threatened to put them to death for refusing to enter into his service, it is reasonable to suppose he has murdered those fine fellows, even after the peace was concluded."

In

In confirmation of this news, several of the officers, while in prison, received letters from the three Lieutenants and several other of those unfortunate men, who had been circumcised, making them acquainted with the Nawaub's villanous conduct; and the officers who were prisoners at Saringapatam, daily saw those poor fellows come on the Parade in Moor-mens dresses, and drilled by the enemy.

The men who attended the dreadful ceremony of poisoning General Mathews and the other officers, gave very particular accounts of that horrid transaction.

The two officers murdered at Bednore, were taken out at that fort, at ten o'clock

o'clock at night, carried into the Jungul, and there cut to pieces, of which the other officers confined at Bednore, received the most certain accounts the next morning, when the cloaths of those unfortunate victims were brought to them for sale.

This conduct of the Nawaub's must naturally impress every British subject with a shocking idea of the man's savage cruelty, and excite in their breasts such a spirit of revenge, as, it is to be hoped, will not be eradicated till amply satisfied.

On the seventeenth, Lieutenant Dallas dismounted his cavalry, and supplied as many officers as he could with horses, we began our march from Of-

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cottah,

cottah, escorted by a small guard of the Nawaub's, towards Vellore, at which place we arrived on the twenty-fifth of April, 1784, where Mr. Dallas gave Beem Row a receipt for all the prisoners whom the Nawaub had delivered up, and we were once more at liberty to enjoy that freedom, which is the inherent privilege of every Briton.

Here might be added an account of the ill treatment of the prisoners by the government of Madras, since their arrival in the Company's territories ; but, this Narrative being only intended as a relation of our usage while in the hands of that inveterate foe, Tippe Sultaun Nawaub Bahauder, we shall, for the present, be silent on that subject, reserv-

in

ing it to be brought on the carpet in a more proper place.

The government of Bombay, it is to be hoped, on our return to that settlement, will consider our losses and sufferings, and convince the world that humanity has not totally forsaken the East : they will also, no doubt, pay the most particular attention to the merits of their sepoys, by presenting each of them with some distinguishing mark of military honour, for having shewn such instances of courage, resolution, and fidelity, in their gallant behaviour during the campaign under the command of Brigadier General Mathews, and during their imprisonment, when labouring under the most cruel hardships, which will perpetuate their fame, and serve as

an example and encouragement to the rest of their troops, to behave in the like commendable manner, should they ever be so unfortunate as to be caught in a snare of the same kind.

What has been advanced in favour of the sepoys, is by no means with an intention to depreciate the character of the European troops, whose services have been full as conspicuous; but, such behaviour is expected from the natives of Britannia and Hibernia, from their well-known national character and established reputation.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

THE barbarities committed by Tippu Saib on General Mathews and his captive army, seem now to have been merely in retaliation for various enormities committed by the troops of the Company, as appears from the following relation by **LIEUTENANT SHEEN**, *of the first battalion of Sepoys, (who was upon the same expedition) in a letter to his father in London, dated from Madras, the second of May, 1784.*

“ AFTER

“**A**FTER the capture of Onore, when I had the honour of carrying the British colours in the breach on storming it, we received a reinforcement of three Bombay battalions, and three regiments of King's troops, and marched for the Bednore country, about fifty miles distant. In our march we had several skirmishes with Hyder's polygars, in one of which, at a breast-work, we put three hundred of them to the bayonet.

This

This execution so terrified these irregulars, that we met with no opposition till we came to the Ghaut, a pass about eight feet wide, and three miles in length, strongly fortified. Luckily, as it happened, General Mathews knew nothing of this defile, otherwise it would have been madness in him to have attempted it; for if the enemy had made any tolerable defence, it was impregnable.

However, the general's want of information was the cause of our success; for in the evening, part of the eleventh battalion, which I belong to, the light company of the Bombay Europeans, and part of the fifteenth battalion of sepoys, began the attack, and took the
first

first barrier with very little opposition.

When we came to the second, we were alarmed at the prodigious number and strong position of the enemy; but finding it no less dangerous to retreat than to advance, we charged home in all quarters, when the motley crew gave way and fled, leaving about five hundred killed and wounded. Our small body, flushed with success, immediately proceeded with the bayonet, and never stopped till they gained the summit of the Ghaut, under a heavy cannonading all the way.

We then sent an account of our success to the General, who expressed his astonishment and satisfaction at so strong

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a pass

a pass, defended by such numbers, having been carried by a mere handful of men, not amounting to four hundred.

An express was immediately sent to the Rajah, who dispatched a Captain Kelly, an officer who had been captured and confined in a dungeon above nine months, with a message to General Mathews, acquainting him, that if he would promise not to molest the inhabitants, the fort and the whole country should be surrendered him.

We accordingly marched to the capital of the Biddenore, where the General was put in possession of the fort and town.

The

The Rajah took care to secure his own private property, but put the General in possession of thirty lacks of pagodas, with a great quantity of diamonds and other precious stones, part of which I saw, and which he afterwards secreted and sent by his brother to Bombay.

Unfortunately however for the General, his brother soon after fell into the hands of the Nabob, who beheaded him. The army is yet uninformed whether the treasure arrived at Bombay: This by calculation is a loss of twenty-five thousand rupees to each subaltern officer,

The Rajah after this offered to join us with some infantry and horse, which the General declined. He had indeed

too great a contempt of his enemy, which was in a great measure the cause of all his misfortunes. He never left above eighty or one hundred men in any of the forts, and when Tippoo arrived he had not above one thousand effectives.

The second day after our arrival, the Rajah informed General Mathews of a Fort called Annampore, that was under his command, and gave him an order to the Killidar or Governor to surrender it to him on his arrival. This Fort was about thirty miles distant. The General accordingly dispatched Captain M'Culloch, with the fifteenth battalion of sepoy under his command, to march and take possession of the place.

The

The Captain sent in a flag of truce with the Rajah's orders, which they detained, having given several evasive answers. Captain M'Culloch having informed the General of this conduct, Major Campbell was detached with the 100th and 102d regiments, and the 2d grenadier battalion of sepoy with four battering guns against it.

When a practicable breach was effected, orders were issued for a storm, and no quarter, which was immediately put in execution, and every man put to the sword, except one horseman, who made his escape, after being wounded in three different places. A most dreadful fight then presented itself: above four hundred beautiful women either killed or wounded with the bayonet, expiring

expiring in one anothers arms, while the private soldiers were committing every kind of outrage, and plundering them of their jewels, the officers not being able to restrain them.

The troops, however, were afterwards severely reprimanded for it. I had almost forgot to mention, that some of the women, rather than be torn from their relations, threw themselves into large tanks, where they were drowned.

After remaining a few days at Annampore, the fifth and eighth battalions of sepoy were ordered to march to Mangalore, a fort on the Malabar coast, ninety-two miles distant. On their approach to this town, the enemy made some opposition, and sprung several
mines'

mines, by one of which we lost eighty men; but such was the superiority of our troops, and the contempt in which they held those of Tippoo, that they rushed on, regardless of danger, and took, by a *coup de main*, eight guns, on which the Killidar and his rabble fled into the fort, and left us in peaceable possession of the town, though every street of it was mined and stockaded.

The fort was then summoned to surrender; and on the arrival of General Mathews, with the main army, the Killidar shewing an intention to stand a siege, batteries were erected, and in thirty-six hours a breach was made, when the Governor offered to surrender on terms, that all private property should be secured, and all public delivered up to the captors.

This

This was accordingly done, with three large ships on the stocks, several sloops, and a great number of armed boats.

This fort was one of the strongest in the Nabob's dominions, and the inhabitants so numerous, that he drew a greater revenue from it than from any other town on the Malabar coast.

A short time after, our colours were displayed upon the ramparts of this fort, it is inconceivable what numbers of the natives flocked in to pay homage to the General. It seems to be the general principle of this people to adhere to the strongest side, without any respect to country or religion.

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The intention of General Mathews's expedition was merely to draw Tippoo out of the Carnatic, which was effected soon after he heard of our rapid conquests. After taking Mangalore, the General thought the campaign was at an end, and that all his business was completed: indeed so confident was he that the Nabob would not leave the Carnatic, as to send the greatest part of his troops into their cantonments against the rainy season. A short time, however, convinced him of his error; for Tippoo, making forced marches, soon appeared before Bednore with two hundred thousand men, and took the town immediately on his arrival. A French battalion served as his advanced guard.

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The garrison with which General Mathews occupied the fort, after the town was taken, did not consist of more than twelve hundred men; five hundred having been killed on Tippoo's first attack, and such great numbers drafted and dispersed in different quarters. The plains, to the utmost distance, we could see from the fort, were covered with the enemies horse and foot; yet nothing was done till his battering cannon arrived, when the Nabob quickly opened thirteen batteries, which began playing upon us in every quarter. This cannon-ading continued for twenty days, during which great numbers of our people were killed and wounded.

The General was at length obliged to send out a flag of truce, and afterwards
terms

terms of capitulation. The Nabob acceded to these terms, which were, to leave in the fort, all the property we had taken, and to agree not to fight against him for a stipulated time; in consequence of which he promised to let us return unmolested to our own garrison: but we were first to march out and pile our arms in the front of his army.

These conditions were thought so ignominious, that we rejected them, and prepared ourselves for fresh hostilities.

The next morning, at day-break, we accordingly made a sally in two divisions, and stormed their grand battery, where we killed a few of the French, and about

one hundred irregulars. This was accomplished almost in an instant ; but the main body of the enemies troops, having taken the alarm, began to surround us, which occasioned us to retreat with precipitation into the fort, in executing which I received a slight wound.

On our return, a council of war was held, when it was the unanimous opinion of all the officers present, that we should accept the proffered terms, our sick and wounded amounting to five hundred and thirty, and lying exposed to the sun, a putrid fever at the same time raging in the fort.

Accordingly, on the memorable 28th of April, the general ordered all the officers to draw of the Paymaster-general as much money as they wanted.

Having

Having some reliance on the honour of the Nabob, both officers and men drew as much as they judged they should have occasion for, some officers taking two thousand, others one thousand pagodas; for my own part, I luckily took only one hundred, the whole being on account of our pay.

This was all taken from the fircar property, which by treaty was to belong to the captors. But the General, being apprehensive of so much money being discovered in the possession of one man, ordered it to be distributed among the troops.

In the afternoon of the twenty-eighth, we marched out and piled our arms, regular

regular battalions being drawn up all around us, chiefly our own Madras Sepoys, with the Company's arms, who had deserted to Tippoo from the Carnatic.

We were conducted about a mile from the fort, and told we were to halt till the morning, and then to march to one of our own settlements. Here we encamped, and on the next morning, about five o'clock, the Nabob sent for the General. They met half way between the two camps, and at the same time the Nabob sent Sutlers, with all manner of liquors and provisions, of which the officers and soldiers made liberal purchases, having tasted none of these delicacies within the fort. This, together with the circumstance of the fort not having
a single

a single rupee in it, induced the Nabob to suspect that we had made a division of the booty ; which he determined to make a plea for an infraction of the treaty.

Finding the next morning that we were not to march, and that our General was not returned, we began to be uneasy about our situation ; and the more so, when on the thirtieth, our Field and Staff-officers, with all the Captains, the Paymaster and Commissary, were sent for and detained. The Nabob, however, to pacify us, dispatched two Brachmans to us, with assurance that they should all return the next day. That being the first of May, our eyes were fully opened as to the intention of the Nabob, when we were taken before
the

the Bucksly or Paymaster, and ordered to be searched before him; we were then stripped of our money, which, among the officers alone, amounted to forty thousand pagodas, besides our watches horses, camels, &c. They afterwards confined us in a large yard, and fed us upon a pennyworth of rice *per diem*. Having remained in this confinement for a few days, they tore our cloaths off in the most indecent manner, coupled us in irons two and two together, and marched us, in that manner, exposed to the damps at night, and the heat of the sun by day, afflicted no less with hunger than thirst, till they conducted us after sixteen days march to a fort called Chittaldrong.

This fort was situated on a barren mountain, where we had heavy irons
put

put upon our legs, ten times more heavy than those of the convicts, and our hand-irons taken off. Thirty of us, with two black girls, and seven servants, were confined in a room about thirty feet square, with a yard of about ten feet, upon two pice a-day, and a seer of rice; out of which two pice we had to pay daily one for wood to dress our provisions. In this wretched situation we continued till the twenty-third of March, 1784, with the loss of seven officers, who absolutely died for want of nourishment and in irons. When an officer was declared dead, they used, without the least ceremony, to drag him out by the heels, and throw him over the walls of the prison, where we have often heard the tygers at night devouring them. During the whole time of our confinement

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I never once saw the outside of the door. However, at length, our troubles began to disappear, for our irons were knocked off on the twenty-sixth, and we joined at the bottom of the mountain the rest of the Bidnore prisoners, and proceeded on our march to the Carnatic.

As soon as we joined our brother soldiers, we were informed that the Nabob had at one time given orders for all the European prisoners to be put to death.

Immediately after he had taken us at Bidnore, it seems he repaired to Mangalore, where Captain Nugent had just arrived with his battalion (and there gained immortal honour), who joined the garrison, which consisted of one grenadier

nadier battalion, the eighth batalion of sepoys, and the forty-second regiment, besides about one hundred men from different corps, who had been left sick.

With this small force did they hold out six months; and for the last month, I can assure you as a fact, they were fighting in the ditch for frogs to eat, having no other subsistence left them.

The ramparts were reduced to a level with the ground; and in this critical situation were they, when the news arrived of a peace between the French and English, when the former declared that they could carry arms no longer against the latter. Tippoo endeavoured to prevail on them, both by promises and threats, to continue with him, and

had actually at one time surrounded them with his cannon; but they boldly persisted in their refusal, and the Nabob being unable to carry on the siege without them, was obliged to accede to the peace. Two days before this he had sent an order for all the prisoners to be put to death. The Brachmas, whom he dispatched with this injunction, first stopped at a fort called Dorwar, and delivered their message to the Killidar, who, shocked at such barbarity, told them, he imagined there must be some mistake, and that he would wait till he could get the order confirmed by the Nabob. The Brachmans told him their orders were peremptory, and must be obeyed. The Killidar finding them so obstinate, directed the execution to begin, but to proceed but slowly. They accordingly

abordingly commenced their barbarous work with the General's brother, and Mr. Wildon. The Killidar then wrote to the Nabob, and was desired to stop till further orders; and the next day accounts arrived of a general pacification."

F I N I S.